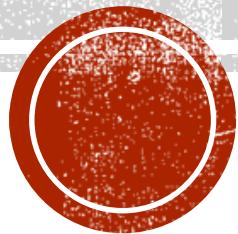


THE FOUNDATIONS OF SCRIPTURE: PART VII

**The Interpretation of God's Word:
Goals and Tools**



THE FOUNDATIONS OF SCRIPTURE

- The Nature of God's Word (Scripture's Doctrine)
- The Makeup of God's Word (Scripture's Canon)
- The Preservation of God's Word (Scripture's Text)
- The Transmission of God's Word (Scripture's Translation, 3 Parts)
- The Interpretation of God's Word (Scripture's Meaning, 6 Parts)



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- **What is hermeneutics?**

The study of the methods and the processes of interpreting literary texts, especially the Bible, to extract their meaning

- **Why the silly name?**

It comes from Hermes, the messenger of the Greek gods, who was considered to be the inventor of language and speech, an interpreter, a liar, a thief, and a trickster

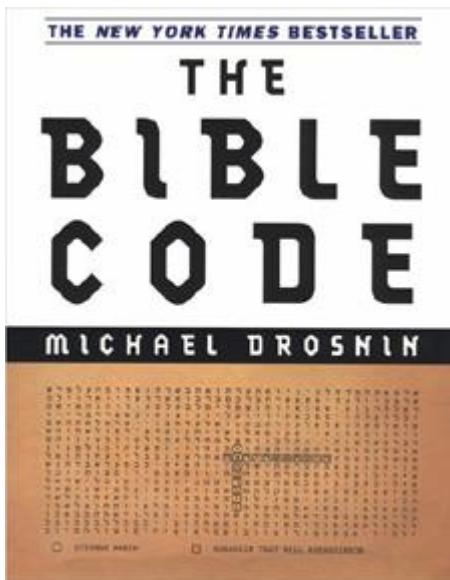
- **Why is it important?**

Many people use the Bible to reach different conclusions (heretics!), so it is important that we rightly understand how to approach the text lest we too be led astray

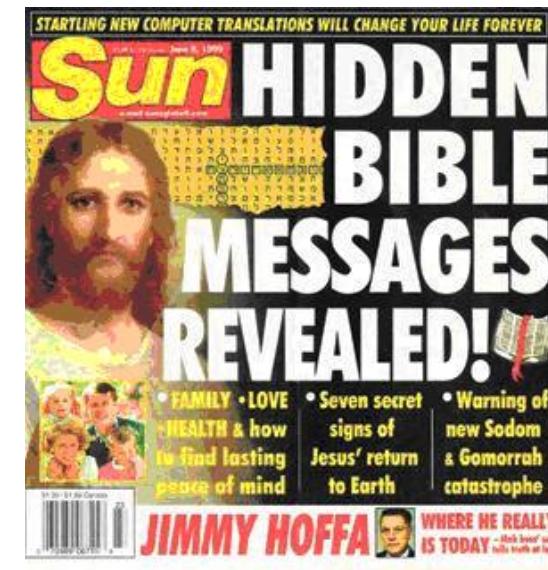


THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the goals of interpretation?



Bible Codes!



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the goals of interpretation?

Bible Codes!

Health and Wealth secrets!



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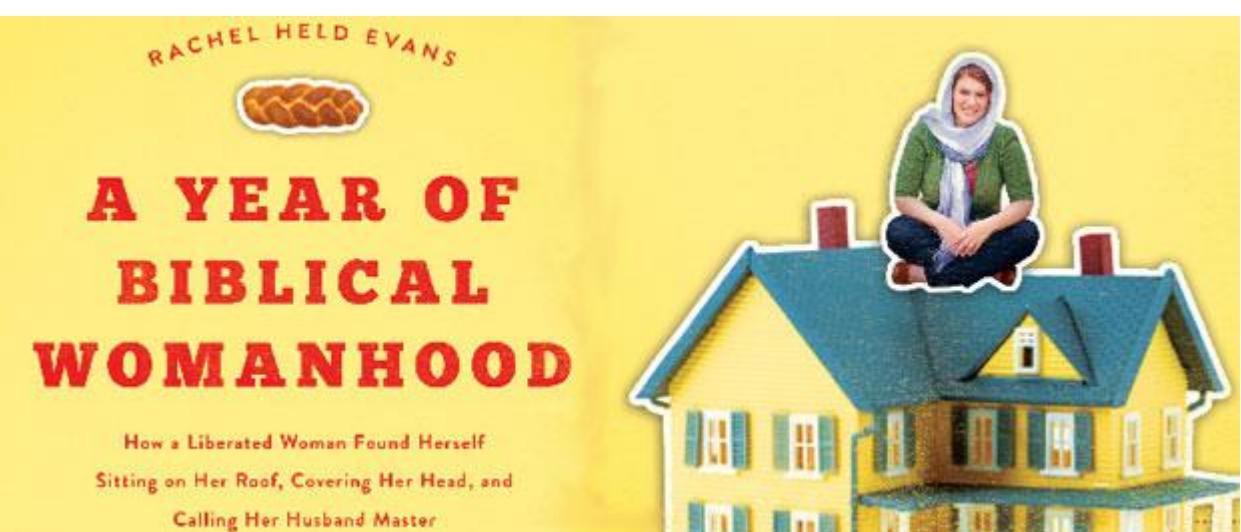
Health and Wealth secrets!

Justify your heritage, culture, and actions!



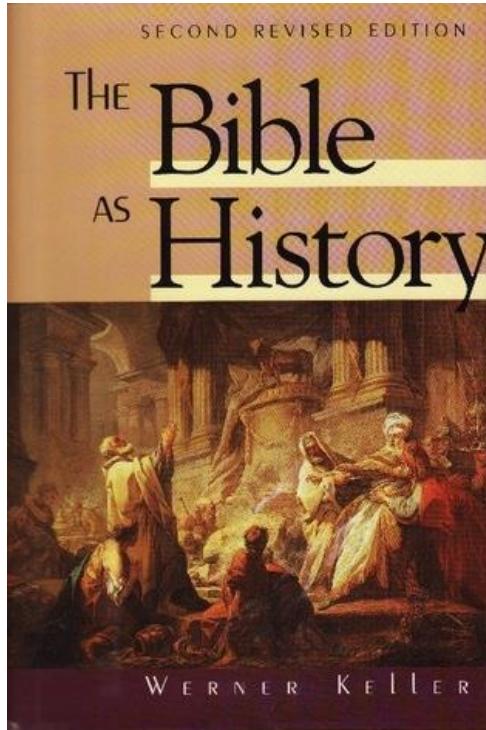
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History!



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the goals of interpretation?

Bible Codes!

Health and Wealth secrets!

Justify your heritage, culture, and actions!

History!

Scripture can be read to accomplish these goals, just as other books can be. And parts of all of these are likely ok. But these goals are not the stated goals of Scripture itself, and thus they lack the Holy Spirit's power



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the goals of interpretation?

Salvation!

(Psalm 119:41-42; Isaiah 55:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 1:1-2, 2:3;
1 John 2:12)



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the goals of interpretation?

Salvation!

Good Works!

(1 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 10:11-14; Col 1:3-6)



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the goals of interpretation?

Salvation!

Good Works!

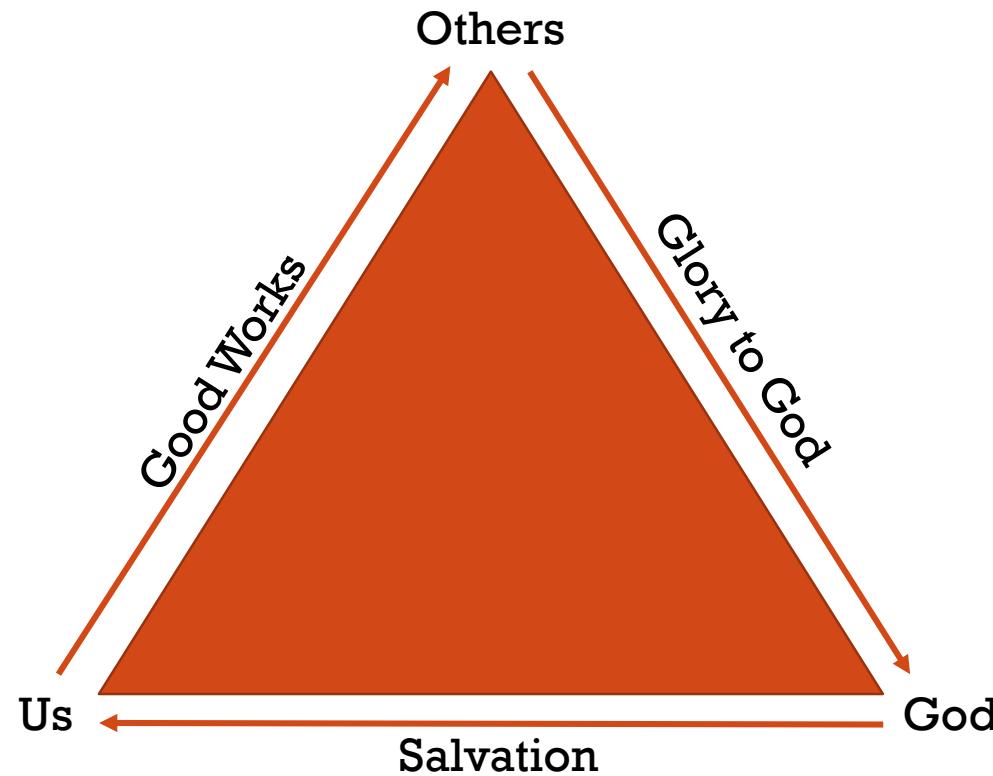
Glory of God!

(Isaiah 40:5; Romans 4:20-22; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18)



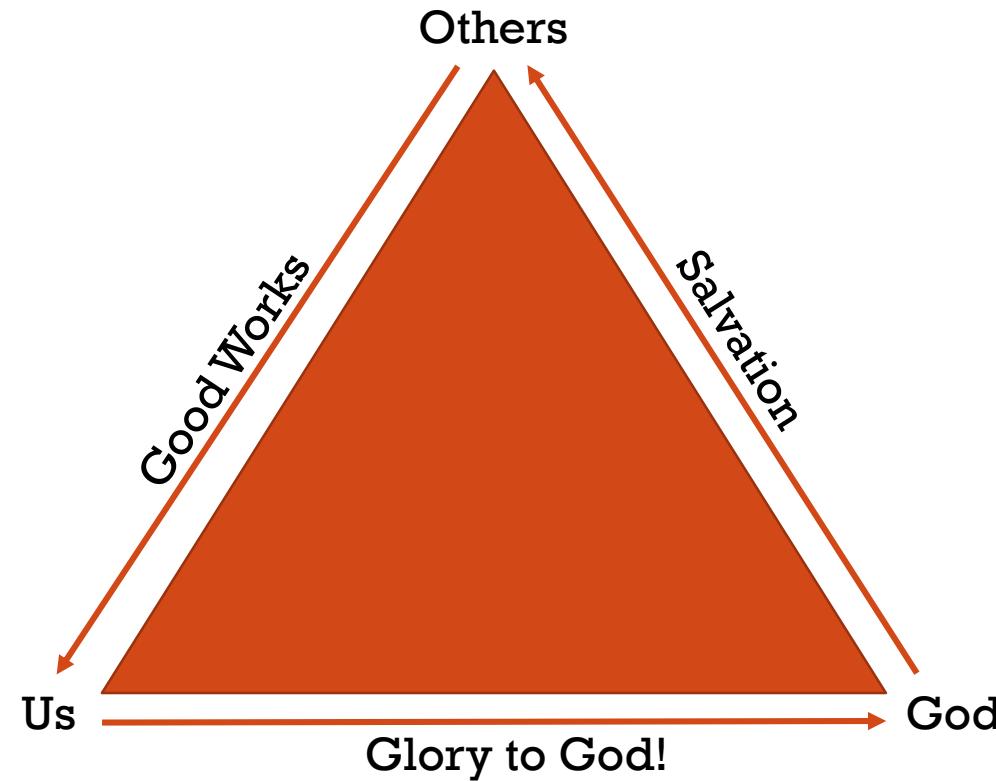
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- What are the goals of interpretation?



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

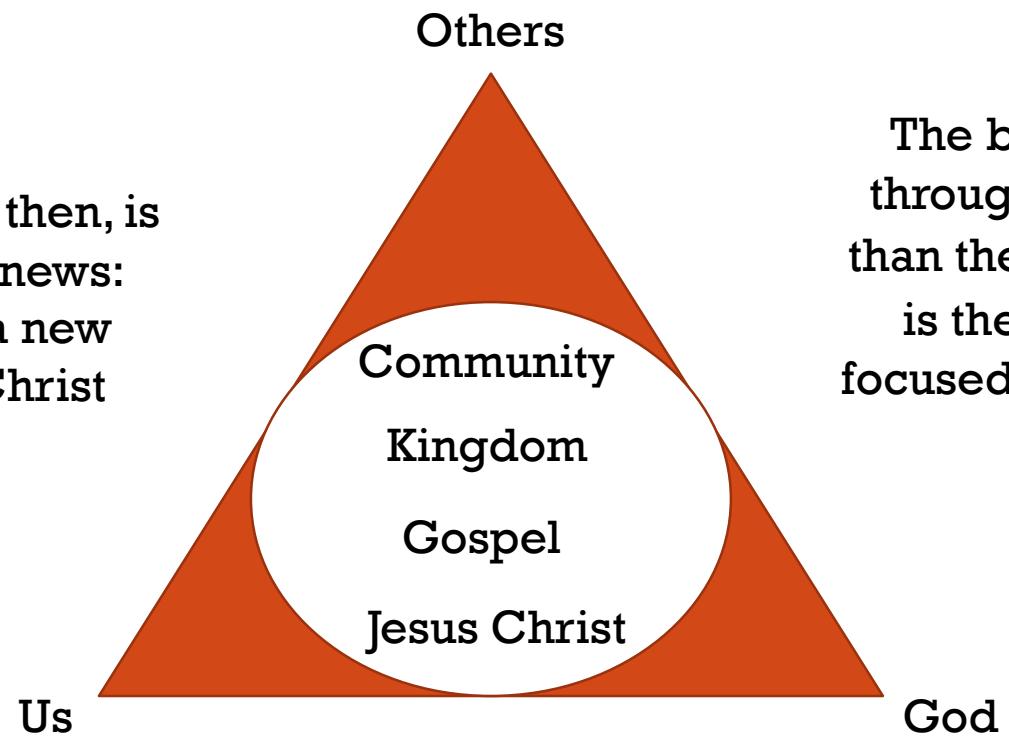
- What are the goals of interpretation?



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the goals of interpretation?

The **end goal** of Scripture, then, is the proclamation of good news: God's project of making a new Kingdom through Jesus Christ



The building of **Community** through the word is nothing less than the **Kingdom** of God, which is the content of the **Gospel**, focused and shaped by the person of **Jesus Christ**



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

The Holy Spirit

Community



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

Because God's word is communication, and he has given us practice at communication our whole lives, much of this is just common sense.

This ought to be good news for us!



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense: Example

Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you (Gal 5:2; ESV).

What does Paul mean?



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

The Holy Spirit

Yet, our common sense does not provide us with all of the insight we need. We can miss both the import and the entire meaning of passages without the Holy Spirit present.



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

The Holy Spirit – Missing intended meaning

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. Certain persons, by swerving from these, have wandered away into vain discussion, desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying or the things about which they make confident assertions

(1 Timothy 1:5-7; ESV)



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

The Holy Spirit – Missing Import

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'
But I say to you, 'Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you'
(Matthew 5:43-44; ESV)



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

The Holy Spirit

Community

God has not left us alone to see if our understanding of Scripture is correct;
he has left us community, both alive and dead.



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

The Holy Spirit

Community – “Archived” tradition

Let a woman learn quietly with all submissiveness. I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man (1 Timothy 2:11-12; ESV)



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Common Sense

The Holy Spirit

Community – “Native” tradition

Let I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh
(John 6:51; ESV)



THE INTERPRETATION OF GOD'S WORD: GOALS AND TOOLS

- What are the tools of interpretation?

Our use of these tools is not infallible – so we must learn to use them
carefully, not abusing them
or distrusting them

